

The Book of 1 Kings

14

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we complete our study of the book of **1 Kings**, this time reading **chapters 12-22**. The book of **1 Kings** continues to weave a story that embraces the northern and southern kingdoms (Israel and Judah). As you read this book, remember that the historical accounts recorded are written for a purpose – to show the reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah against the backdrop of the covenant God had made with his people at Sinai. This means that you should read this book through a covenantal lens.

The main goal of the compiler of **1 Kings** and **2 Kings** was to show that the blessings or curses that Israel experienced in its long history leading up to the Babylonian exile were in direct correlation to its obedience or disobedience under the Covenant of Law. Sinai casts a long shadow across the twin book of **Kings**.

One example of the strongly covenantal slant of **1 Kings** is the amount of space that the writer devotes to Ahab's reign. This is not because of any economic or political significance to this era, but solely because of the grave threat that Ahab (and his pagan wife Jezebel) posed to the covenantal relationship that God had with his people.

The division between **1 Kings** and **2 Kings** has been drawn at the end of the reign of Ahab (in the northern kingdom) and of Jehoshaphat (in the southern kingdom). This line, however, is drawn right through the middle of the ministry of Elijah the prophet, whose story continues into the first two chapters of **2 Kings**.

Let's now pull up a comfortable chair and read **1 Kings 12-22** in one sitting. Note particularly how the prophets of **1 Kings** (in particular, Elijah) continued to remind both Israel and Judah of the blessings and curses of the covenant they had made with God (read again **Deuteronomy 28** and see how this relates to Elijah's authority to say in **1 Kings 17:1**: "...there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word").

Memory Verse

For sin shall not be your master,
for you are not under law,
but under grace.

Romans 6:14

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!